



Bishop Vanessa Everett

# “When God Lets You Have What You Want”

**Theme:** The consequences of rejecting God’s rule and choosing man’s leadership.

**Key Verse:** *“They have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”* — 1 Samuel 8:7

**Text:** 1 Samuel 8:4–22

There are times in life when God gives us what we ask for — even when it’s not His perfect will. The people of Israel desired a king, not because God had failed them, but because they wanted to look like the other nations. They had forgotten that **they were chosen to be different**, a holy people set apart for God’s glory.

This message explores the consequences of prioritizing human solutions over divine guidance. It is a cautionary tale — one that teaches us the danger of rejecting God’s rule in favor of worldly systems and appearances.

1 Samuel 8<sup>th</sup> chapter verses 4-22 starts off speaking of the fact that Samuel was old, and about that time he was pretty tired. He assigned his two sons to do ministry, but they went off on their own, doing their own interpretation. The people started complaining to Samuel that his sons were not doing a good job. They said, “Give us a king, make us a king to judge us like all the other nations.” Their request wasn’t for better judgement, but for change in appearance. They were tired of living by faith under God’s prophetic leadership. They had to leave their environment, their place of worship, their understanding of how God would speak to them and they stepped out of the realm of where their blessing was coming from going after something that someone else had.

What are you asking for? What is it that you want God to do? When people lose sight of God’s presence they begin to crave visible symbols of power. They want to see something instead of trusting. That is dangerous. They say, “Show it to me, they want to see it. God is a spirit; we must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Samuel went to God many times on behalf of the people. God said to Samuel, “The people are not rejecting you; they are rejecting me.” Their dissatisfaction was not with Samuel’s age or even with his son’s corruption. It was a rejection of God being in control! Israel’s true king had always been God Himself. — the One who parted the Red Sea, fought their battles, and spoke through His prophets. **When we seek worldly systems instead of divine guidance, we dethrone God in our own hearts.** When God is in control He works out some awesome stuff, even when you don’t expect it.

The message explores the consequences of what happens when you go looking for something that God didn’t intend for you to have.



In today's times people have various opinions of how churches should operate. Pastors across the world are all overwhelmed with the different opinions because they are looking at social media. Simplicity is not simple anymore; we go the hard way trying to get the message over. Some churches have changed to where it's almost like a production now (the insides of the church are dark, lights dimmed resembling a theater); but with all that, is it bringing in souls? Are people hearing the word of God? Has your excitement and praise encouraged someone else to want to serve God? With all the dancing and singing, did anyone get the message?

Samuel conveyed God's warning about choosing a king: **"You Will Cry Out" (1 Samuel 8:10–22)**

Samuel, under divine instruction, warned them of the cost of their request. He said:

- "He will take your sons..." (v.11) — your labor and strength.
- "He will take your daughters..." (v.13) — your service and gifts.
- "He will take your fields..." (v.14) — your inheritance and freedom.
- "You shall be his servants." (v.17)

A king would not only rule them but also own them. They would exchange the liberty of grace for the burden of government. *"Nevertheless, the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel."* (v.19) They said, "We will have a king over us." Their hearts were hardened to warning. They wanted comfort over covenant, conformity over consecration. Just as the prodigal son demanded his inheritance before his time, Israel wanted its own way before God's timing—and it led to sorrow.

### **The Appointment of Saul: God's Permissive Will (1 Samuel 9–10)**

Saul looked the part — tall, handsome, capable (1 Sam. 9:2). Outwardly, he seemed like the answer to their desire. But inwardly, his heart was not steadfast toward God.

**Disobedience Leads to Decline** - Saul's reign began in humility but ended in pride.

- He offered unauthorized sacrifice (1 Sam. 13).
- He spared what God commanded to destroy (1 Sam. 15).
- He feared the people more than he feared God.

God rejected Saul and said, *"I have found a man after my own heart."* (1 Sam. 13:14). When we choose by sight instead of spirit, we end up with leadership that looks good but lacks godly character.

### **Spiritual Consequence — God's Rejection**

- Israel lost the intimacy of God's direct rule.
- They moved from *theocracy* (God-ruled) to *monarchy* (man-ruled).

### **Social and National Consequences**

- Heavy taxation and labor.
- Corrupt kings lead the nation into idolatry.
- Division of the kingdom (Rehoboam & Jeroboam).
- Ultimately, captivity and exile.



## Redemptive Result — God's Sovereign Plan

Even in their failure, God worked redemption. From the line of David — the king God chose — came **Jesus Christ**, the **King of Kings**. What Israel lost through rebellion, humanity regained through redemption.

### *In Summary ....*

1. **Be Careful What You Ask For.**  
God may allow it, but it may cost you peace (Psalm 106:15).
2. **Don't Choose by Appearance.**  
Saul looked royal, but David had the heart. (1 Sam. 16:7)
3. **God's Way Is Still Best.**  
His leadership protects, provides, and preserves His people.
4. **Rejecting God's Rule Leads to Regret.**  
Many modern believers still cry, "We want a king!" — desiring success, fame, and control rather than surrender to the Spirit.



### **"When God Gives You What You Want"**

God's greatest judgment is sometimes not in saying "no," but in saying "yes." Israel got their king — and along with him came heartache, division, and defeat. Yet God, in His mercy, still brought forth a King after His own heart — Jesus Christ — the One who reigns not by force, but by love.

Let us crown Him King again in our hearts. Let Christ rule our decisions, our homes, and our ministries — for **He reigns forever and ever**.

### ***Closing Prayer....***

"Lord, forgive us for the times we have chosen our will above Yours. Help us to trust Your leadership, even when we cannot see the outcome. Rule in our hearts as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Establish Your throne in our homes, our churches, and our nation. May we never reject Your reign, but walk in full surrender to Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen."